

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the August 30, 2007 Decision on Appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) from the Examiner's Final rejection of claims 1-10, 12, 13, 16-20, 22-26, 29-31, 33, 34, 43-47, 49-53, 55-60, 62, 63, 66-69, and 71-81. Claims 36-42 were indicated as allowed and claims 11, 14, 15, 21, 27, 28, 32, 35, 48, 54, 61, 64, 65, and 70 were objected to, but other otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

As an initial matter, the allowed claims 36-42 remain unchanged by this amendment. Further, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 11, 19-21, 24-26, 32, 35, 48, 50-55, 59, 61, 68, and 75-81; and amended claims 8, 14-16, 23, 28, 29, 43, 56, 60, and 64. These changes put allowable dependent claims 11, 14, 15, 21, 27, 35, 48, 61, and 64 into independent form, as claims 8, 14, 15, 16, 23, 29, 43, 56, and 64, respectively; per the following table:

Allowable Independent Claims After Amendment:	Amendment Combines Claims:	Corresponding Dependent Claims:
8	8 and 11	9, 10, 12, 13, 69
14	8 and 14	- none -
15	8 and 15	70
16	16 and 21	17, 18, 22, 71, 72
23	23 and 27	28
29	29 and 35	30, 31, 33, 34
43	43 and 48	44-47, 49
56	56 and 61	57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 66, 67, 73, 74
64	56 and 64	65

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More specifically, following the cancellation of rejected claims 1-7, independent claim 8 was amended to include all the limitations of allowable dependent claim 11, and dependent claim 11 was correspondingly cancelled. Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, and 69 depend from amended claim 8 and remain in original form.

Allowable dependent claims 14 and 15 were each changed into independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claim 8. Claim 14 has no dependencies, and claim 70 depends from claim 15.

Independent claim 16 was amended to include all the limitations of allowable, objected to dependent claim 21. Correspondingly, claims 19- 21 were cancelled consistent with this combination of the subject matter of claims 16 and 21. Claims 17, 18, 22, 71, and 72 depend from amended claim 16 and remain unchanged.

In addition, independent claim 23 was amended to include all the limitations of allowable, objected to dependent claim 27 including the subject matter of intervening dependent claims 24-26. Correspondingly, dependent claims 24-27 were cancelled and dependent claim 28 was amended to change its dependency from canceled dependent claim 27 to amended independent claim 23, which is its sole dependent claim.

Independent claim 29 was amended to include all of the limitations of allowable, objected to dependent claim 35. Claims 32 and 35, which depend from claim 29, have been cancelled. Claims 30, 31, 33 and 34 depend from claim 29 as amended.

As mentioned before, the next succession of claims, claims 36-42 have been allowed and remain unchanged.

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Independent claim 43 was amended to include all of the limitations of allowable, objected to dependent claim 48, and claim 48 has been cancelled consistent with this amendment. Claims 44-47 and 49 depend from amended claim 43 and remain unchanged.

Independent claim 50 and corresponding dependent claims 51-55 have been cancelled.

Independent claim 56 was amended to include all of the limitations of allowable, objected to dependent claim 61 including intervening dependent claim 59. Correspondingly, dependent claims 59 and 61 have been cancelled, and dependent claim 60 was amended to depend from claim 56 instead of claim 59. Claims 57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 66, 67, 73 and 74 depend directly or indirectly from claim 56 after this amendment.

Allowable, objected to dependent claim 64 was amended into independent form to include all the limitations of its corresponding base claim 56. Correspondingly, claim 65 depends from claim 64.

Claim 68 has been cancelled as a rejected claim dependent on rejected claim 1. The remaining rejected claim set, claims 75-81 has been cancelled, too.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 8-10, 12-18, 22, 23, 28-31, 33, 34, 36-47, 49, 56-58, 60, 62-67, and 69-74 are in condition for allowance. Previously, applicant has paid for a total of 81 claims, with 10 being of independent form. After entry of this amendment, there are fewer than 81 claims, and no more than 10 are independent. Thus, it is believed no further fees are due; however, please charge additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include issue fees.

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Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. The patent office is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to address any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

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